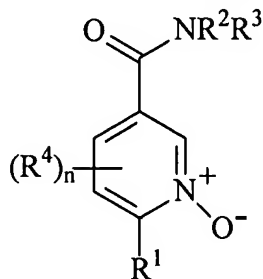


## AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound having the structure (I):



(I)

and optical isomers, diastereomers, enantiomers and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

$R^1$  is selected from halogen, ~~substituted or unsubstituted alkyl~~, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, , substituted or unsubstituted amino, hydroxy, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio or  $R^5-SO_2-$ , where  $R^5$  is selected from hydrogen, halogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, , substituted or unsubstituted amino, or hydroxy;

$R^2$  is hydrogen;

$R^3$  is substituted or unsubstituted aryl or substituted or unsubstituted aryl(alkylene);

$R^4$  is selected from halogen, ~~substituted or unsubstituted alkyl~~, substituted or unsubstituted heteroalkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl, substituted or unsubstituted carbocycle aliphatic ring, , substituted or unsubstituted amino, or hydroxy, wherein, when  $R^4$  is halogen, it is not para to the N-oxide group; and

$n$  is 0 or 1.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled)

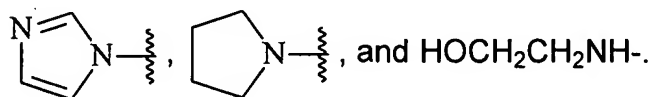
5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  is  $R^5-SO_2^-$  and  $R^5$  is selected from alkyl, heteroalkyl, aryl, carbocycle, aryl(alkylene), and carbocycle(alkylene).

6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 5 wherein, for  $R^5$ , alkyl is  $C_1-C_{10}$ alkyl; heteroalkyl is  $C_1-C_{10}$ alkyl with 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from N, O and S; aryl is phenyl, substituted phenyl, naphthyl or substituted naphthyl; carbocycle is  $C_3-C_8$ carbocycle; and alkylene is  $C_1-C_{10}$ alkylene.

7. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 5 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from  $(C_1-C_6\text{alkyl})SO_2^-$ ,  $PhSO_2^-$ , fluorinatedphenyl $SO_2^-$ ,  $PhCH_2SO_2^-$ , cyclopentyl $SO_2^-$ , *m*-carboxyphenyl $SO_2^-$ , *m*-methylphenyl $SO_2^-$ , and  $HOOC-(C_1-C_4\text{alkylene})SO_2^-$ .

8. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from halogen, amino, hydrocarbylamino, dihydrocarbylamino, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio-, (heteroalkyl)amino, and (heteroaryl)amino.

9. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 7 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from amino,  $(C_1-C_6\text{alkyl})(C_1-C_6\text{alkyl})\text{amino}$ ,  $PhNH-$ ,  $PhCH_2NH-$ ,



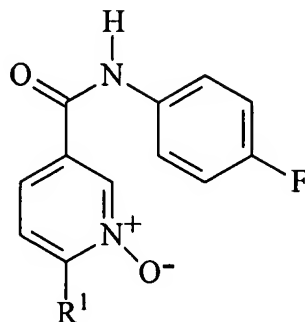
10. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 8 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from halogen and  $(C_1-C_6\text{alkyl})S-$ .

11. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 10 wherein  $R^1$  is chloride.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^3$  is aryl.

14. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 having the structure (II)



(II).

15. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 14 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from  $(C_1-C_6\text{alkyl})SO_2^-$ ,  $PhSO_2^-$ , fluorinatedphenyl $SO_2^-$ ,  $PhCH_2SO_2^-$ , cyclopentyl $SO_2^-$ , *m*-carboxyphenyl $SO_2^-$ , *m*-methylphenyl $SO_2^-$ , and  $HOOC-(C_1-C_4\text{alkylene})SO_2^-$ .

16. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^3$  is benzyl or phenyl, the benzyl or phenyl having 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents selected from alkoxy, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl, alkylamido, alkyl carbonyl, amido, benzyl optionally substituted with halogen, benzyloxy, carboxy, cyano, dialkylamido, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, oxoalkyl, phenyl optionally substituted with halogen, thioalkyl, thiocyanate, and thiohaloalkyl.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

19. (Previously Presented) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(2-hydroxyethylamino)-1-oxynicotinamide.

20. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 6-bromo-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

21. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 5,6-dichloro-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.

22. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 6-ethanesulfonyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
23. (Previously Presented) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxy-6-(propane-2-sulfonyl) nicotinamide.
24. (Previously Presented) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-methanesulfonyl-1-oxynicotinamide.
25. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 6-benzenesulfonyl-N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
26. (Previously Presented) A compound that is N-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxy-6-phenylmethanesulfonylnicotinamide.
27. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
28. (Previously Presented) A compound that is 6-chloro-N-(4-iodophenyl)-1-oxynicotinamide.
29. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1 wherein  $R^1$  is selected from halogen, hydrocarbyloxy, hydrocarbylthio,  $R^5SO_2$  or substituted or unsubstituted amino,  $R^2$  is H,  $R^3$  is aryl and n is 0.
30. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant or excipient.
- Claims 31-44 (Cancelled)